

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1.-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) A method for planning a radiocommunications network, comprising:

computing cell coverage, to indicate a region around a radio base station where a radioelectric signal radiating out from the radio base station copes with given requirements;

wherein computing the cell coverage comprises:

dividing the region around said radio base station into a number of first areas;

dividing at least some of said first areas into a number of second areas; and

for at least some target second areas of said second areas, computing respective quantities indicative of the cell coverage within said target second areas, each quantity being computed for the respective target second area as a function of data describing an environment between said radio base station and said target second area along a propagation path of a radioelectric signal radiating out from said radio base station and passing through said target second area;

each quantity being computed for the respective target second area as a function of data describing the environment within at least some second areas close to at least one of said radio base station and said target second area along the radioelectric signal propagation path, and as a function of data describing the environment within at least some first areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path,

wherein computing each quantity for the respective target second area comprises:  
forming a mixed resolution environment profile describing the  
environment between said radio base station and said target second area along said radioelectric  
signal propagation path,

wherein forming the mixed resolution environment profile comprises:  
identifying obstacles encountered by said radioelectric signal  
within at least some first areas along the propagation path from said radio base station to said  
target second area; and  
consolidating identified obstacles which are spaced apart one from  
another at a distance lower than a given distance.

19 (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein computing a-  
~~second~~ each quantity for ~~[[a]]~~ the respective target second area comprises:

checking availability of data describing the environment within at least some second  
areas close to said radio base station and said target second area; and

computing said quantity on the basis of said mixed resolution environment profile,  
~~forming a mixed resolution environment profile describing the environment between said~~  
~~radio base station and said target second area along said radioelectric signal propagation path,~~  
wherein said mixed resolution environment profile describes ~~describing~~ the environment  
within at least some second areas close to at least one of said radio base station and said target  
second area depending on environment descriptive data availability, and within at least some first  
areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path; and  
~~computing said quantity on the basis of said mixed resolution environment profile.~~

20. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein forming ~~[[a]]~~ the mixed resolution environment profile comprises:

~~identifying obstacles encountered by said radioelectric signal within at least some first areas along the propagation path from said radio base station to said target second area; and~~

forming the part of the mixed resolution environment profile describing the environment within at least some first areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path so that said part describes the obstacles identified within said first areas.

21. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein forming the part of the mixed resolution environment profile describing the environment within at least some first areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path so that said part describes the obstacles identified within said first areas comprises:

~~consolidating identified obstacles which are spaced apart one from another at a distance lower than a given distance; and~~

forming the part of the mixed resolution environment profile describing the environment within at least some first areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path so that said part describes said consolidated obstacles.

22. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 20, wherein obstacles encountered by said radioelectric signal within at least some first areas along the propagation path from said radio base station to said second area are identified according to a stretched string technique.

23. (Currently Amended) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein forming ~~[[a]]~~ the mixed environment profile comprises:

forming a first end and a second end of said mixed resolution environment profile describing the environment within at least some second areas close to said radio base station and said target second area depending on environment descriptive data availability.

24. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein computing said quantity on the basis of said mixed environment profile comprises:

identifying obstacles encountered by said radioelectric signal along the propagation path from said radio base station to said target second area on the basis of said mixed resolution environment profile; and

computing said quantity on the basis of said identified obstacles.

25. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein said obstacles are identified according to a stretched string technique.

26. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 24, wherein computing said quantity on the basis of said identified obstacles comprises:

computing attenuation by diffraction on said identified obstacles of a radioelectric signal radiating out from said radio base station along the propagation path to said second area,

wherein computing attenuation by diffraction comprises:

computing a first contribution due to orographic obstacles;

computing a second contribution due to buildings;

computing a third contribution due to vegetation; and

computing said attenuation by diffraction as a weighted sum of said first, second and third contributions.

27. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein the environment within second areas close to said radio base station and said target second area along the radioelectric signal propagation path is described by using a first resolution and the environment within first areas along the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation path is described by using a second resolution lower than said first resolution.

28. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said data describing the environment within said second areas close to said radio base station and said second area along the radioelectric signal propagation path include average ground altimetry, information as to the presence of a building, vegetation or nothing, and height of the building or vegetation.

29. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 18, wherein said data describing the environment within said first areas along said at least part of the remaining stretch of the radioelectric signal propagation comprises average ground altimetry.

30. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein a quantity for a respective second area occupied by a building is computed as a function of quantities computed for second areas surrounding the second area occupied by the building.

31. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, wherein a quantity for a respective second area occupied by a building is computed as a weighted average of quantities computed for second areas surrounding the second area occupied by the building.

32. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein said quantities computed for second areas surrounding the second area occupied by the building are weighted by

using respective weights which are inversely proportional to the squared distance between the second area occupied by the building and the second areas surrounding the second area occupied by the building.

33. (Previously Presented) A processing system capable of being programmed to implement the method according to claim 18.

34. (Previously Presented) Computer program modules comprising computer program code means, said computer program modules being able, when loaded in a processing system, to implement the method according to claim 18.